



Prevention Resource & Media Center
1237 West Divide Ave Suite 1D
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-328-8919
Toll Free: 800-642-6744
Fax: 701-328-8979
E-mail: ndprmc@nd.gov
www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention

Contact: LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

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National Inhalant and Poisons Awareness Week is March 18-24 ***Department of Human Services has prevention materials available***

Bismarck, N.D. – **National Inhalant and Poisons Awareness Week** is March 18-24. It provides an opportunity to increase understanding about the use and risks of inhalants and to initiate community dialogue.

The N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has created an educational inhalant abuse prevention toolkit for community leaders, parents, schools officials, and other professionals. The toolkit is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/inhalant-toolkt.pdf and can be shipped to interested individuals at no cost. For a kit, contact the department's Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8918, toll-free 800-642-6744, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

"Inhalant Awareness Week provides an opportunity to take action," said Pamela Sagness, prevention administrator for the division. "It is also a time for all of us to look around our homes, workplaces, and communities to ensure we are creating a safe environment for our children."

Sagness said it is important to teach youth about the safe use of products and to always stress that some products are dangerous poisons when used inappropriately. Inhalant use among North Dakota middle school students is 7.4 percent and 11.6 percent among high school students (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011).

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is the leading resource for substance abuse information and prevention efforts in the state. The department's Prevention Resource and Media Center offers a variety of free brochures and pamphlets as well as other resources including DVDs that can be checked out and used all year long to support prevention efforts in schools and communities.

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Prevention
Administrator
Pamela Sagness, LAC
701-328-8824
psagness@nd.gov

Prevention Resource &
Media Center [PRMC]
Administrator
Laura Anderson, MPH
701-328-8918
lauranderson@nd.gov

Prevention Media
Specialist
Amber Jensen
701-328-8747
ajensen@nd.gov

Prevention Education
Specialist
Rachelle Loda, Ed.S., NCSP
701-857-8576
rloda@nd.gov

Prevention Specialist
Jessica Brewster, MS/ LAC
701-328-8747
jbrewster@nd.gov

Prevention Specialist
Patrick Joyce
701-328-8919
patrjoyce@nd.gov

Community
Prevention Specialist
Thomas Volk
701-220-1264
tmvolk@nd.gov

Community
Prevention Specialist
Crystal Kraft
701-328-8602
crykraft@nd.gov

